

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Lithuanian SSR)	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	1. Military, Police, <input type="text"/> Installations in Klaipeda 2. Restricted Areas in Klaipeda	DATE DISTR.	7 Aug. 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

Military Forces

1. The largest number of military forces in the area of Klaipeda are at Nimerzate (55-53N, 21-04E). In the forest between Nimerzate and Palanga (55-56N, 21-04E) there is a Soviet Army summer camp with a large number of artillery guns and various vehicles.¹ Infantry, artillery, and naval forces are also stationed in Klaipeda and are used to guard the harbor and seacoast. There are also small motorized units in the city. Most of the infantry forces in Klaipeda are stationed at the Moltke Casern, which is overcrowded, and in several other larger buildings. Where in the time of Lithuanian independence there was only one row of beds in the Klaipeda caserns, there are now three tiers of bunks.
2. The whole Klaipeda harbor area, the Kurische Nehrung starting at the Suederspitzze, and the town of Melnrage are naval bases. There is a coastal battery with searchlights at Melnrage and 80 percent of the town is occupied by Soviet marines and their families. One and a half kilometers from Giruliai, in the direction of Karklininkai (55-49N, 21-05E), there is a second coastal battery with searchlights.² Guns here are of caliber 3.7 and 8.8 cm. There are also quite a number of military forces in the Klaipeda suburb of Bomelsvite. There are military airfields and air force units in Klaipeda, near Svetoji, and in Palanga. The Palanga airfield is located eight kilometers outside the village.
3. there are nightly military rail transports which carry soldiers and guns.³ These transports leave Klaipeda in the direction of Kalininograd and return empty.
4. Military service for draftees officially lasts three years. Men of the class of 1933 were drafted in 1951. A military commission sends orders through the rayon chiefs calling up draftees. These orders are delivered by militiamen to the homes

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of the draftees, who must personally sign a receipt for the orders. On the appointed day, the draftee must appear at the drafting point, where his hair is cut. If it is suspected that the draftee might disappear, his belongings are taken away and he is not allowed to leave. All others can return home until an indicated time.

5. When a draftee leaves for service, he is allowed to take the following items with him: the clothes he has on, extra underwear, toothbrush, and a towel. From the place where they have reported, draftees go in closed transports to the Soviet Union for training. There are no Soviet units composed solely of Lithuanians. [redacted] source never heard of a draftee who had returned home. Several persons received post cards from drafted relatives who were on the border of North Korea.
6. Specialists who are deferred because they are indispensable receive night training. This training takes place three times a year for a period of four weeks each time. The training takes place after working hours and wooden rifles are used. Instructions are in the Russian language and according to the Russian system. Men of the class of 1923 are also given this training.
7. There is a naval school with a few hundred pupils on Kanto Street in Klaipeda. It is located in a building that was formerly the German school. The naval school is like a military academy and trains pupils from the age of 12 for careers in the higher ranks of the navy. Pupils wear smart-looking sailor uniforms and seem to be well supported in all ways by the government. Most of them seem to be Soviets, but there are a few Lithuanians.

Restricted Areas 4

8. The coastal area and the areas surrounding Klaipeda had already been fortified by the Germans and the Soviets are improving these fortifications. The Kurische Nehrung is strongly fortified and has enormous ammunition depots and various stockpiles of guns. Only persons with permits issued with the approval of the MVD in Vilnius are allowed to enter restricted zones. This applies to Communist Party members as well as to others. The various areas along the coast belong to war zone #1 and war zone #2. The harbor area, the Kurische Nehrung with Juodkrante and Nida, and the rayon of the Moltke Casern (beginning at the railroad line and including the so-called Koenigswaldchen /small forest/) are restricted zones. The Kurische Nehrung is in zone #1; beyond the Kurische Nehrung is zone #2. People are forbidden to enter the coastal area and dunes leading to Svetoji and persons caught there are arrested. There is also a restricted area in the Strandvilla (krantine) section of Klaipeda, where there is a rebuilt lighthouse. Source reports a great change in the landscape of the Kurische Nehrung which has resulted from a 1949 forest fire in the woods at Smiltynė at the northern end of the Kurische Nehrung.

Police

9. Police forces in Klaipeda are divided into the following sections: traffic section, criminal section, passport section, registration section, permit section, and rayon section. Policemen are Lithuanian or Soviet. Lithuanians can attain the rank of senior lieutenant and almost all the lower ranks are Lithuanians. Soviets start with a rank of ~~senior~~ lieutenant and rise to the higher ranks. Police uniforms are blue with silver piping. In Vilnius, they are blue with red piping. The police in the villages are under the direct supervision of the MVD and, to avoid attacks on them by partisans, they are not uniformed. In general, the people appreciate the work done by the police, but, because the police are poorly paid, policemen sometimes support criminals and participate in robberies.

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10. There is a police station on Plevu Street in Klaipeda. Source estimates that about 500 persons are on police duty in Klaipeda during the day. The traffic police are on duty from 1000 to 2000 hours and they keep the traffic in good order. Driving regulations are strictly enforced and any driver disregarding them is severely punished. Each policeman must fulfill a monthly norm of persons brought in for traffic violations. Those not doing so can be discharged. At the larger intersections like Hindenburg (Lenin) Square, Alexander Square, Boersenbruecke, and Steintor, policemen are on duty to regulate traffic in good weather. In bad weather, traffic is controlled by the newly-installed traffic lights. Car inspection police are under the supervision of the traffic police. The car inspection office issues driving licenses.
11. The traffic police also work with other officials who check pedestrians carrying large parcels. This is done to prevent blackmarketing. The criminal police were fully set up between 1949 and 1951. Most of them are plain-clothes men. They check all stores and restaurants at night. In addition, each shop is guarded by a civilian guard from the wounded veterans department. The political police guard all Party and official buildings. The passport section is open from 0900 to 1400 hours and is closed in the afternoon.
12. Arrests occur every day and for the slightest offenses. The manager of a shop would be arrested if one kilogram of sugar were missing. Collaborators with German Nazis are also arrested when discovered. A person arrested for theft gets 10 to 15 years' imprisonment. The penalty for murder is generally only three to five years.

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Comments:

1. [redacted] an antiaircraft unit of the 16th Lithuanian Division holds its summer maneuvers in the area of Palanga.

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3. [redacted] army units arriving in Siauliai (55-55 N, 23-17 E) do not remain in town for longer than two days and at night are transported in the direction of Klaipeda.

4. [redacted]

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Enclosures: A. Military Installations near Klaipeda
B. Coastal Installations near Klaipeda
C. Klaipeda Forest Station and Engineer Camp

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